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Letter dated 18 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I would like to inform you that the Government of Rwanda has taken note of the statement issued at the conclusion of the consultations among signatories to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement at the summit level, which took place in Lusaka, Zambia, on 15 February 2001, and welcomes the resolution of two key issues which have been at the heart of the delays in implementing the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

We welcome the declaration of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the effect that the Inter-Congolese Dialogue Facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, will be invited shortly to begin consultations with the interested parties, with a view to begin the dialogue as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the Government of Rwanda welcomes the announced deployment of the second phase of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) by 26 February 2001 and the cooperation with the United Nations to which the Democratic Republic of the Congo has committed itself. It looks forward to further discussions on the deployment concept the Secretary-General has prepared at the Political Committee/Security Council meetings scheduled for 21-22 February 2001 in New York.

The Government of Rwanda, in furtherance of its commitment to a full and expeditious implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, takes this opportunity to reaffirm its earlier offer to pull back its forces to new intermediate positions, not less than 200 km from all forward positions. This will be done in enhancement of the Kampala Disengagement Plan of 8 April 2000 and the Harare sub-plans of 6 December 2000, now fully subscribed to by all the parties.

The Rwanda Patriotic Army (APR/RPA) forces, in pursuance of this objective, will withdraw from all forward positions on 28 February 2001 at 00:00 hours, starting with Pweto. The forces will move to new positions which have been indicated to the MONUC Commander.

The Government of Rwanda takes this opportunity to urge all parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the United Nations to push the peace process forward by supporting full implementation of the Agreement as it is. In particular, Rwanda wishes to see commitment by all parties to the disarmament of and non-cooperation with the former forces armées rwandaises (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe,

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as provided for by the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions.

I would be grateful if this letter were translated and circulated to all members as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative